

Monday, 10 January 2022

CABINET

A meeting of **Cabinet** will be held on

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

commencing at **5.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room, Town Hall, Castle Circus,
Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Members of the Committee

Councillor Steve Darling (Chairman)

Councillor Carter

Councillor Long

Councillor Cowell

Councillor Morey

Councillor Law

Councillor Stockman

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Governance Support, Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR

Email: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk - www.torbay.gov.uk

CABINET AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Disclosure of Interests

- (a) To receive declarations of non pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.

For reference: Having declared their non pecuniary interest members may remain in the meeting and speak and, vote on the matter in question. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

- (b) To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.

For reference: Where a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest he/she must leave the meeting during consideration of the item. However, the Member may remain in the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence if the public have a right to do so, but having done so the Member must then immediately leave the meeting, may not vote and must not improperly seek to influence the outcome of the matter. A completed disclosure of interests form should be returned to the Clerk before the conclusion of the meeting.

(Please Note: If Members and Officers wish to seek advice on any potential interests they may have, they should contact Governance Support or Legal Services prior to the meeting.)

3. Communications

To receive any communications or announcements from the Leader of the Council.

4. Urgent Items

To consider any other items the Chairman decides are urgent.

5. Matters for Consideration

6. Listing of the whole of Parkfield as an Asset of Community Value

(Pages 4 - 31)

To consider a report that details a nomination to list parts of the Parkfield Estate as an Asset of Community Value.

7. Award of Contract for the Management of the Torbay Lottery

(Pages 32 - 37)

To consider a report that seeks to award a contract that is over £50,000.

8. Safeguarding Adult Annual Report

(Pages 38 - 53)

To consider a report on the above.

9. **Fostering Annual Report 2021-22** (Pages 54 - 78)
To consider the Fostering Annual Report which sets out Torbay's vision for the Fostering Service.
10. **Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board - Childcare Sufficiency Report** (Pages 79 - 81)
To consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on the Childcare Sufficiency Report and formally respond to the recommendations contained within the submitted report.
11. **Appointment of Member Champion - Queens Platinum Jubilee** (Pages 82 - 83)
To consider a report on the appointment of a Member Champion for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Meeting Attendance

Torbay Council has taken the decision to continue operating in a Covid-19 secure manner in order to protect staff and visitors entering Council buildings and to help reduce the spread of Covid-19 in Torbay. This includes social distancing and other protective measures (e.g. wearing a face covering (unless exempt), signing in and using hand sanitiser). Our public meetings will continue to operate with social distancing measures in place and as such there are limited numbers that can access our meeting rooms. Also, to help prevent the spread of the virus, anyone attending meetings is asked to take Covid lateral flow test the evening before - if you have a positive test result please follow the Government's guidelines and do not attend the meeting.

If you wish to attend a public meeting please contact us to confirm arrangements for your attendance.

Meeting: Cabinet **Date:** 18 January 2022

Wards affected: Preston/Roundham with Hyde

Report Title: Listing of the whole of Parkfield as an Asset of Community Value

When does the decision need to be implemented? 18 January 2022

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services
(Councillor Carter)

Director/Assistant Director Contact Details: Assistant Director for Corporate Services
(Matthew Fairclough-Kay)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1 That the decision of the Cabinet on 16 November 2021, (as set out in Minute 277/11/21) be rescinded; and the application for the Parkfield Estate to be registered as an asset of community value be reconsidered and determined.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 Following receipt of a community nomination for land to be listed as an ACV, a local authority must reach a decision whether or not to list nominated land within eight weeks of receiving the nomination.
- 2.2 The proposals contained in this report will potentially commit the Council financially in respect of: Potential Compensation payments; if an owner or former owner of land listed or previously listed as an ACV incurs loss or expense that it is likely they would not have incurred had the land not been listed as an ACV, they may be able to claim compensation under regulation 14 of the ACV Regulations 2012.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- i) That the decision of the Cabinet on 16 November 2021, (as set out in Minute 277/11/21) be rescinded; and that the nomination to list the following parts of Parkfield Estate registered under title numbers DN127384 and DN311422 in the Council's list of assets of community value be approved:
 - BMX Track
 - Skatepark
 - MyPlace

- Parkfield House Stable Block
- Parkwood House grounds
- Community Woods

as there is established community use; and

ii) that the nomination to list the following parts of Parkfield Estate in the Council's list of assets of community value be refused:

- Parkfield House
- Ranger Stores

as there is no established community use.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Nomination to include Parkfield submitted by the Paignton Town Centre and Preston Community Partnership.

Appendix 2: Official copy title plan DN127384 and DN311422

Appendix 3: Parkfield Estate plan

Background Documents

Torbay Council Assets of Community Value Policy:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/planning-and-building/land-charges/assets-of-community-value/>

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

1.1 What is the proposal / issue?

To list the whole of Parkfield as an Asset of Community Value.

1.2 What is the current situation?

Part of Parkfield was previously listed as an Asset of Community Value ('ACV') on 30 September 2016. That listing did not include Parkfield House and grounds or the Community Woods.

That listing expired on the 29 September 2021. A nomination to relist the whole of Parkfield, including Parkfield House and grounds and the Community Woods, has been received from the Paignton Town Centre and Preston Community Partnership and must be determined by the Cabinet in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 and with reference to the supporting information provided within the nomination

This report is being presented to you again because the decision made on 16 November 2021, was determined on the basis that the **relisting should be the same as that previously approved in 2016**. However, having sought clarification from the applicant, they would now like to revise their nomination to include the whole of the site.

Council officers have reviewed the nomination in conjunction with the TDA. Each part of Parkfield Estate has been reviewed to determine if the criteria set out in section 88 Localism Act 2011 has been fulfilled.

Attached at Appendix 2 is a copy of the Land Registry title plans showing the extent of the Council's ownership. The area for consideration is outlined red with the exception of a small parcel of land edged green title DN611845, which relates to an electricity substation which cannot be included in the listing.

A community asset is a local building or piece of land which the community considers to be of particular value to the local community. Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011 sets out the definition of a community asset. Land or a building will be considered of community value if in the opinion of the Council if:

- a) an actual current use of the building or other land that is not an ancillary use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, and
- b) it is realistic to think that now or in the next 5 years there could continue to be a primary use of the building/land which will further (whether or not in the same way) the social, well-being or social interests of the local community.

Section 88(2) of the Act extends this definition to land which has furthered the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community in the recent past, and which it is realistic to consider will do so again during the next five years.

There is established community use in relation to the following parts of Parkfield Estate and it is clear that the criteria has been met and that the following parts of the property should be included in the Council's list of ACVs:

- BMX Track
- Skatepark
- MyPlace
- Parkfield House Stable Block
- Parkwood House grounds
- Community Woods

There is no established community use in relation to the following parts of Parkfield Estate and it is clear that the above criteria has not been fulfilled and that the following parts of the property should not be included in the Council's list of ACVs, but instead should be placed on the Council's register of Unsuccessful Community Nominations:

- Parkfield House
- Ranger Stores

2. Options under consideration

2.1 What options have been considered?

Having received a valid nomination, the only other option would be to refuse to list the asset as an Asset of Community Value. However, given the previous partial listing of the property and the continued uses it is recommended that part of the property is listed as an ACV.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

3.1 What is the relationship with the priorities within the Partnership Memorandum and the Council's Principles?

The protection of Assets of Community Value supports the Partnership's priority of 'Thriving People and Communities'.

3.2 To note, as detailed in this report, were the Council to dispose of the assets, there would be a 6 month period to allow the community to raise funds to purchase such assets. There is no current intent for disposal.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The proposals contained in this report will potentially commit the Council financially in respect of: Potential Compensation payments; if an owner or former owner of land listed or previously listed as an ACV incurs loss or expense that it is likely they would not have incurred had the land not been listed as an ACV, they may be able to claim compensation under regulation 14 of the ACV Regulations 2012. However, in order to claim such compensation, the claimant will need to prove and demonstrate their actual loss, so the likelihood of such claims is low. In this instance Torbay Council is the freehold owner of the property.

- 4.2 The legal effect of listing the property as an ACV is set out in the Torbay Council Assets of Community Value Policy:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/planning-and-building/land-charges/assets-of-community-value/>

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 Torbay Council is the freehold owner of the property is the only party directly affected by the proposals. The occupiers have been notified of the proposals. The nomination has been made by the local community partnership.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

N/A

7. Tackling Climate Change

N/A

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to determine the nomination in a set timeframe, if it does not do so it would leave the Council vulnerable to a potential ombudsman complaint. In view of the amendment to the area of nominated land, the Council has agreed an extension with the applicant until the date of the next Cabinet meeting to avoid any such complaint.
- 8.2 If the Council lists the property as an ACV in circumstances where it should not have done so, then the owner is entitled to appeal and may potentially recover the costs incurred in a successful appeal.
- 8.3 If the Council decides not to list the property as an ACV in circumstances where it should have done so, there is no right of appeal. The only remedy available to an aggrieved applicant would be by way of judicial review.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	There are a number of sport and community activities on site.		

People with caring Responsibilities			No differential impact
People with a disability			No differential impact
Women or men			No differential impact
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			No differential impact
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
People who are transgendered			No differential impact
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	There are a number of sport and community activities on site.		
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	There are a number of sport and community activities on site.		

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 None.

Document is Restricted

These are the notes referred to on the following official copy

The electronic official copy of the title plan follows this message.

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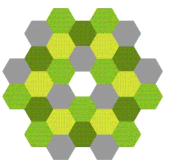
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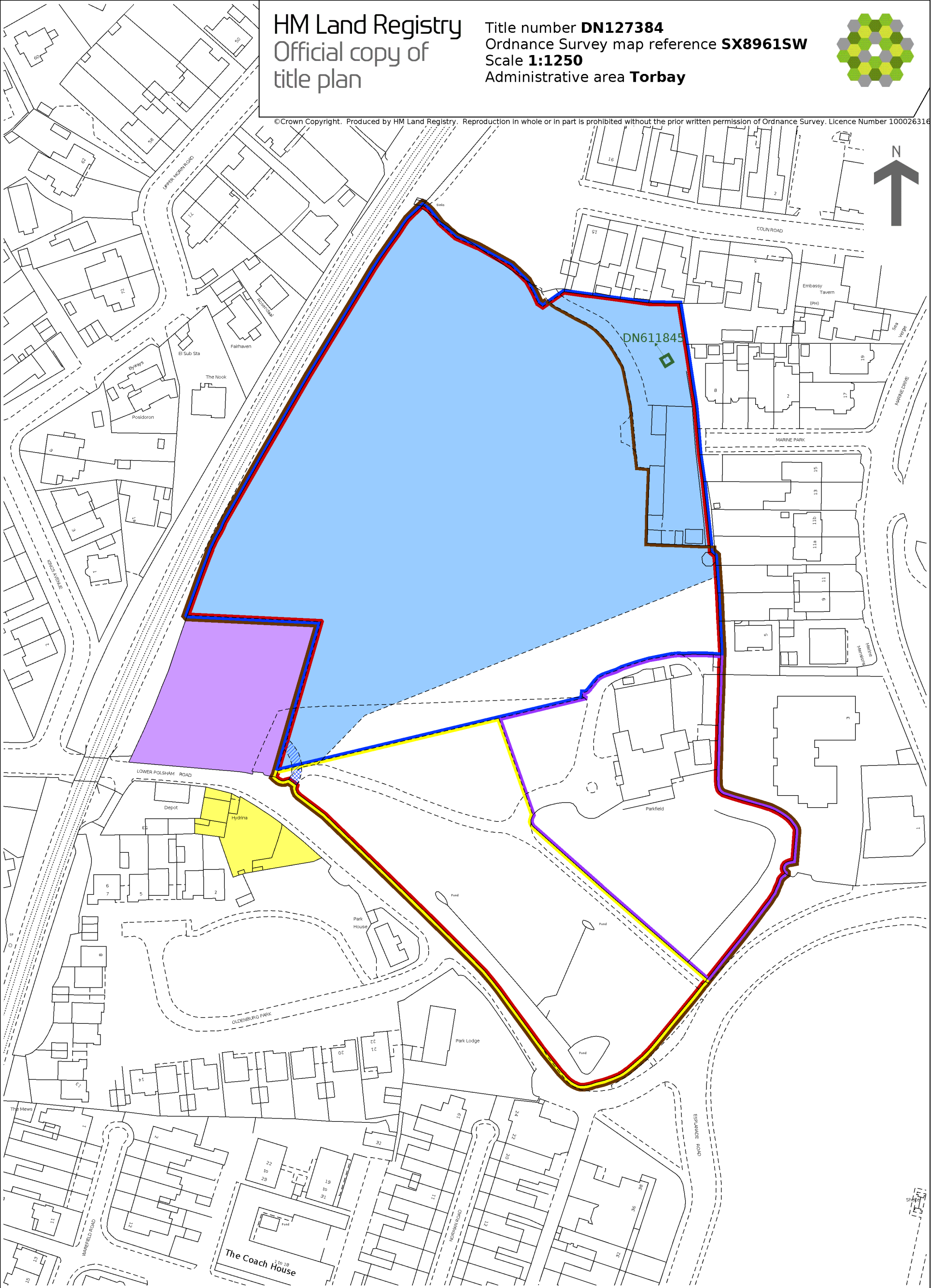
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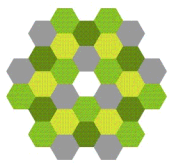
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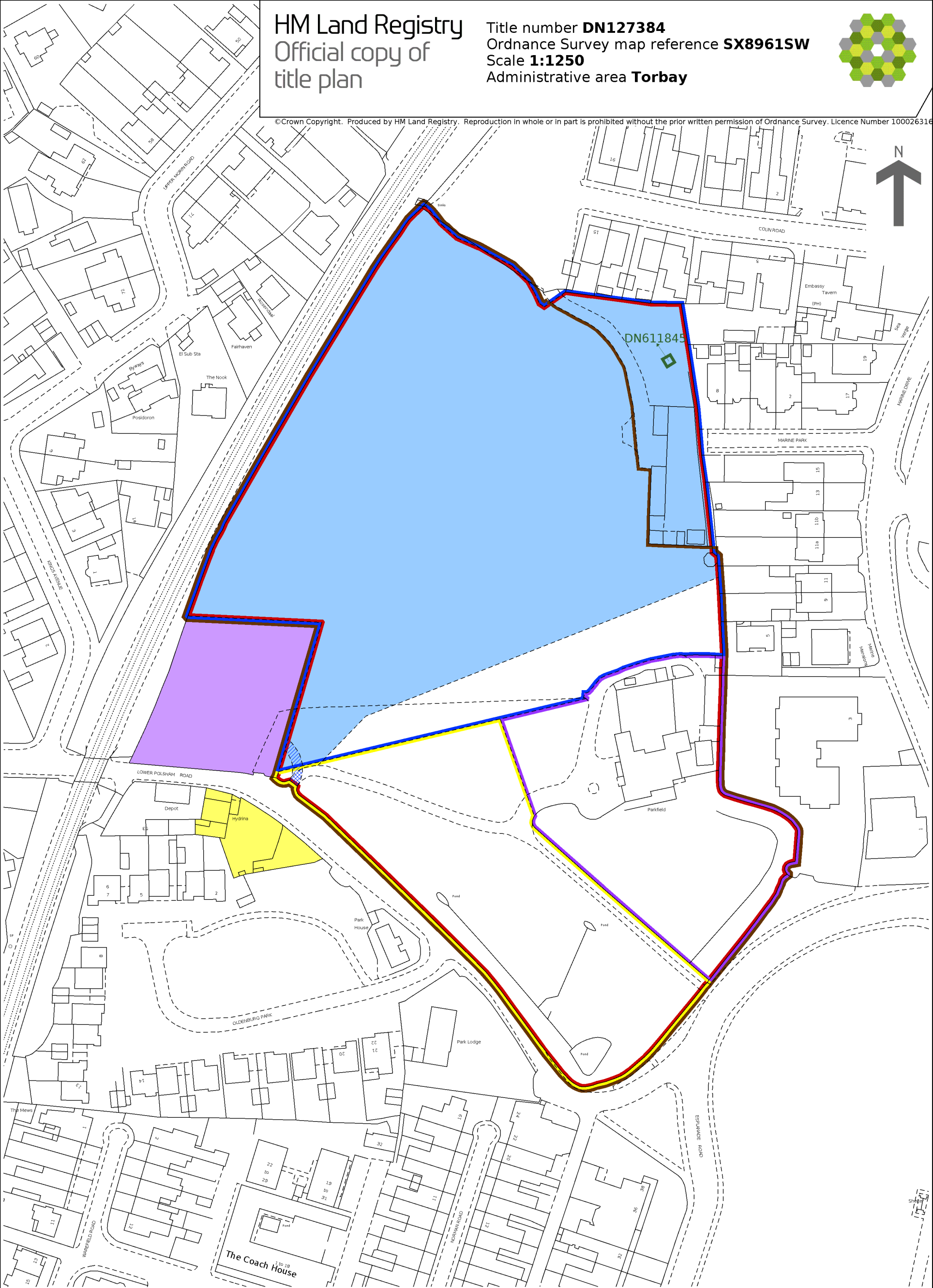
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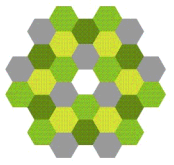
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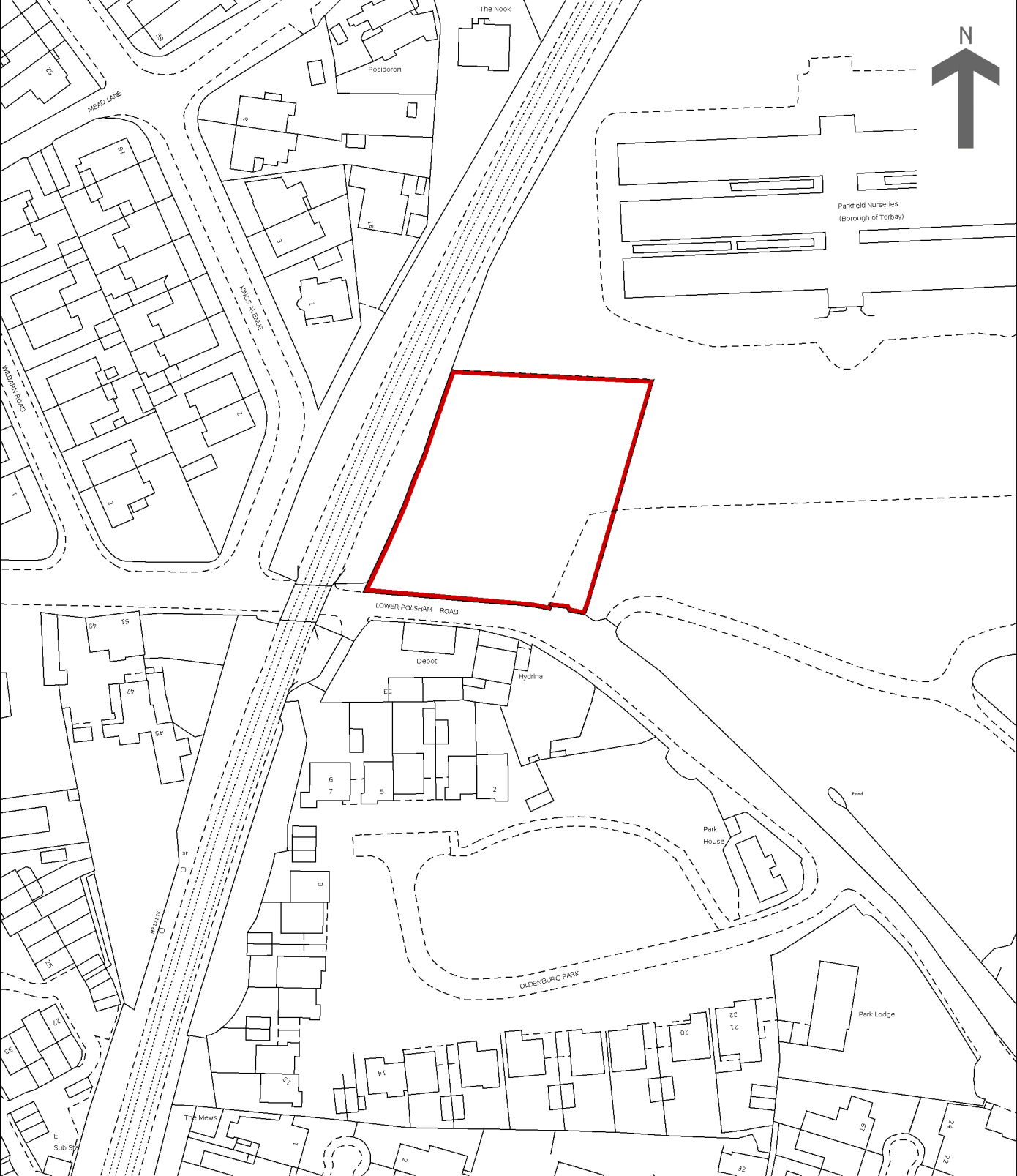
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Administrative area **Torbay**



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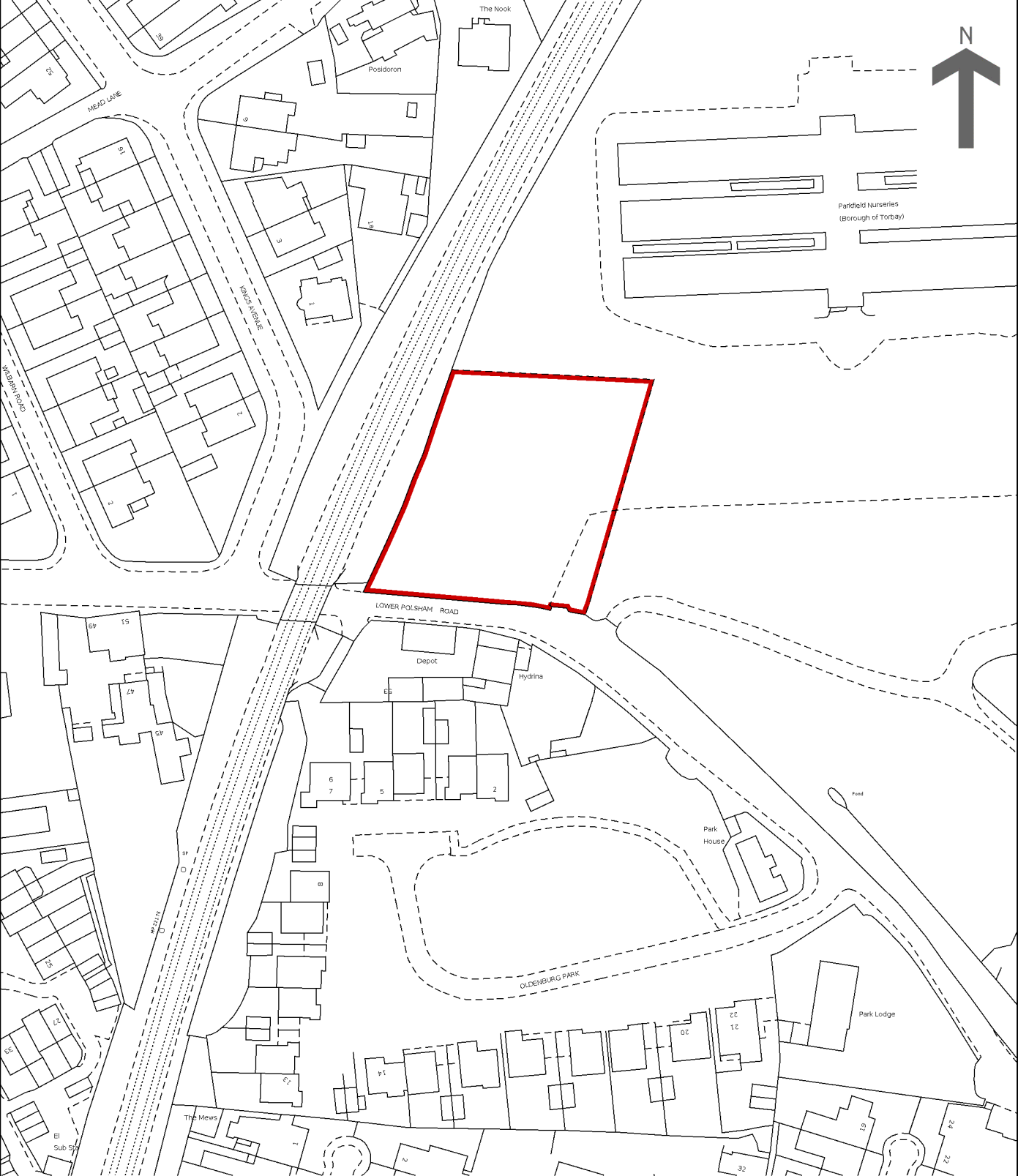
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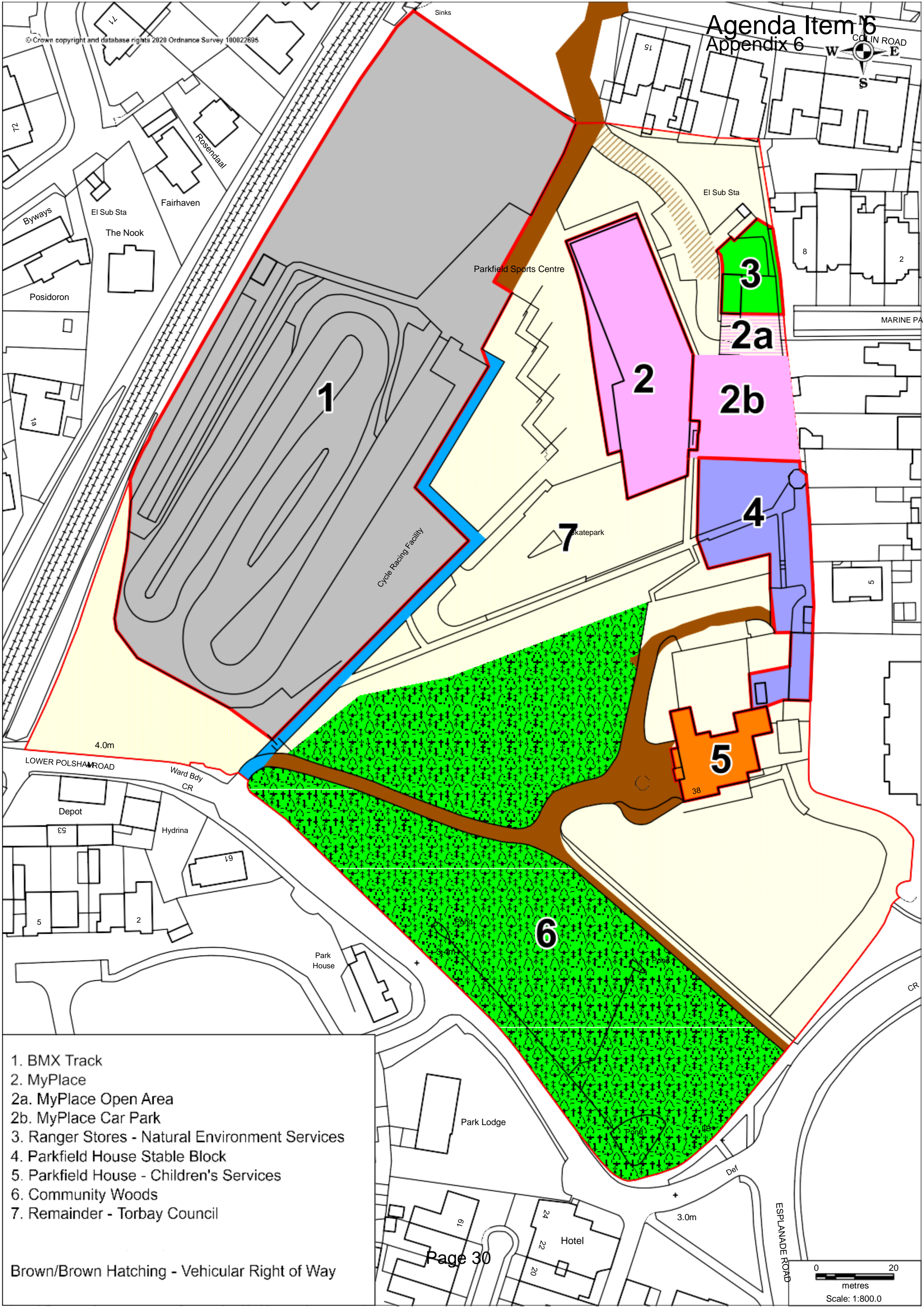


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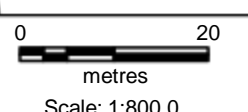


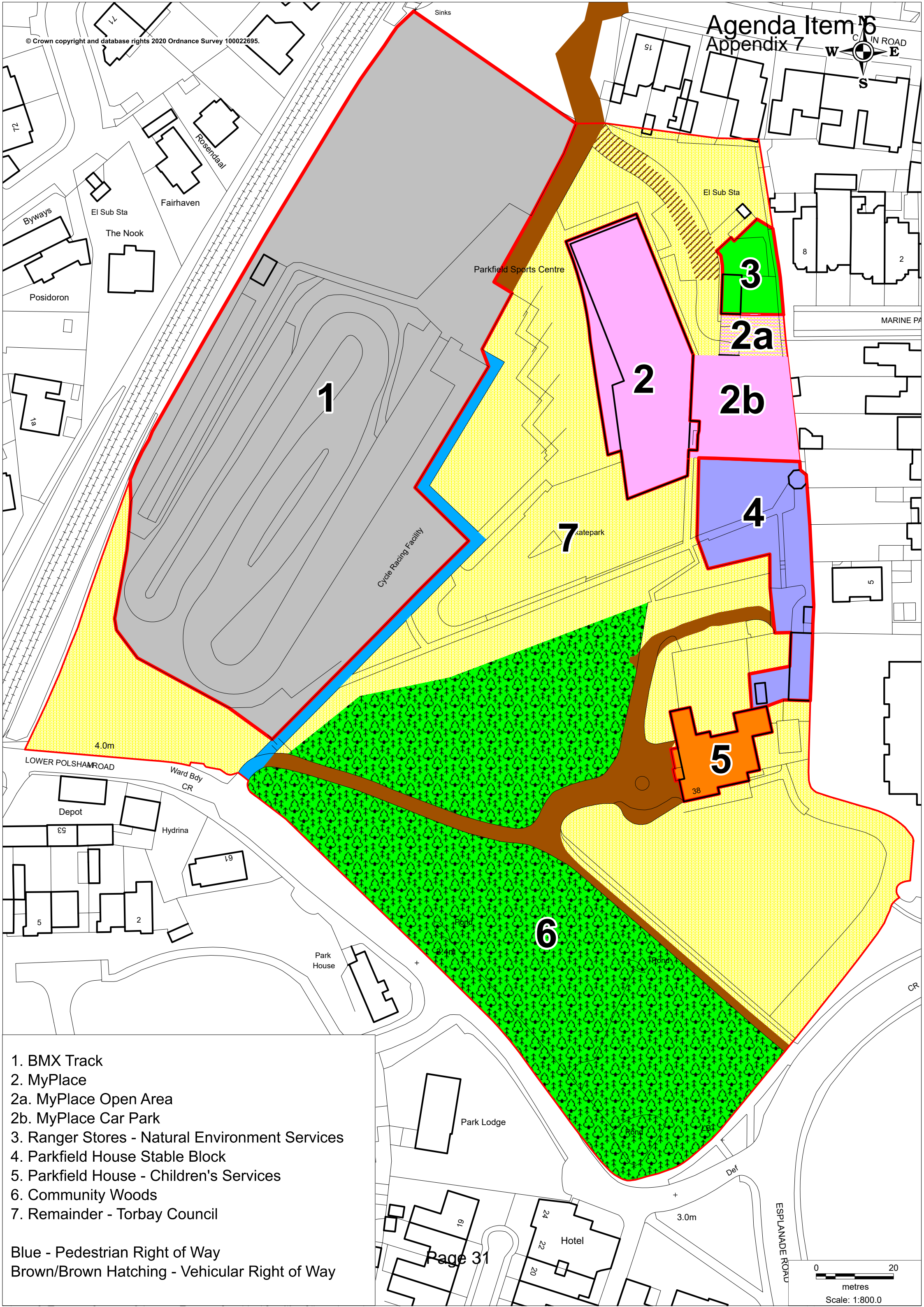
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- 1. BMX Track
- 2. MyPlace
- 2a. MyPlace Open Area
- 2b. MyPlace Car Park
- 3. Ranger Stores - Natural Environment Services
- 4. Parkfield House Stable Block
- 5. Parkfield House - Children's Services
- 6. Community Woods
- 7. Remainder - Torbay Council

Brown/Brown Hatching - Vehicular Right of Way





- 1. BMX Track
- 2. MyPlace
- 2a. MyPlace Open Area
- 2b. MyPlace Car Park
- 3. Ranger Stores - Natural Environment Services
- 4. Parkfield House Stable Block
- 5. Parkfield House - Children's Services
- 6. Community Woods
- 7. Remainder - Torbay Council

Blue - Pedestrian Right of Way
Brown/Brown Hatching - Vehicular Right of Way

Meeting: Cabinet **Date:** 18 January 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

Report Title: Award of Contract for the Management of the Torbay Lottery

When does the decision need to be implemented? As soon as possible

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor Carter, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services

Chief Executive Contact Details: Anne-Marie Bond, Chief Executive, anne-marie.bond@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The current contract for the management of the Torbay Lottery ends in May 2022. Following a successful procurement process the Council needs to award a new contract which will run from May 2022 for a period of four years, with the potential to extend for a further two years. As the total value of the contract is over £50,000 for the life of the contract it requires formal Cabinet approval.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

We want Torbay and its residents to thrive.

We want Torbay to be a place where we have turned the tide on poverty and tackled inequalities; where our children and older people will have high aspirations and where there are quality jobs, good pay and affordable housing for our residents.

We want Torbay to be the premier resort in the UK, with a vibrant arts and cultural offer for our residents and visitors to enjoy; where our built and natural environment is celebrated and where we play our part in addressing the climate change emergency.

- 2.1 The proposal in this report help us to deliver this ambition by providing a mechanism to enable local good causes, charities and community groups to raise funds, free of charge, through joining the Torbay Lottery. For every £1 ticket sold 60p goes directly back to local good causes.
- 2.2 The reason for the decision is to ensure a new contract is in place to enable the Torbay Lottery to continue, which supports the delivery of the following themes through helping local groups to raise additional funding through the sale of lottery tickets:
- thriving people; thriving economy; tackling climate change; Council fit for the future;
 - the Council’s responsibilities as corporate parents;
 - tackling poverty, deprivation and vulnerability; and
 - people with learning disabilities.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the contract for the Management of the Torbay Lottery be awarded to the successful bidder (Gatherwell Limited) from May 2022 for a period of up to six years.

Background Documents

Full details on the Torbay Lottery can be found at www.torbaylottery.co.uk

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The online Torbay Lottery was established by Torbay Council as a pilot in April 2017 in recognition of the value that independent, not-for-profit charity, community and voluntary sector organisations have in the local community. The introduction of the Torbay Lottery and its good causes funding programme demonstrates Torbay's commitment to deliver and support a successful third sector, which have a beneficial impact on the local community and support the ambitions or visions of the [One Torbay: Working for all Torbay - Community and Corporate Plan](#).
- 1.2 The pilot was a success and between April 2017 and December 2021 266,106 tickets have been sold raising £159,664 for local good causes. Players are either able to select their own good cause to support or can support the general Torbay Lottery, this money is then allocated by Torbay Council once a year, where local good causes may apply for a one off grant of up to £2k.
- 1.3 The Council's contract for the management of the Torbay Lottery expires in May 2022 and it is therefore necessary to award a new contract for the management of the Lottery from May 2022, for an initial period of four years with the option for two, twelve-month extensions. A formal procurement exercise has been undertaken and a successful bidder has been identified and evaluated through the process.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 Not to award the contract. This option is not recommended as without appointing a new supplier from May 2022 the Council will be unable to continue to operate the Torbay Lottery.

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 The management contract is self-funded through ticket sales with the successful supplier receiving a percentage to cover their operational costs. For every £1 ticket sold 60p goes directly to good causes, the remainder covers the prize fund and operational costs.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The management of the Torbay Lottery is compliant with all relevant legislation and guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and Lottery Council.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 This is an internal process and officers within Procurement, Governance Support, IT, Risk and Data Protection have been consulted and involved in the procurement evaluation process.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

- 6.1 The tender documents included identification of additional social value and the successful supplier was assessed on this as part of the procurement exercise.

7. Tackling Climate Change

- 7.1 The award of the contract will have no specific impact in respect of tackling climate change. However, good causes supporting climate change initiatives are encouraged to take part in the Torbay Lottery and raise funds for their cause.

8. Associated Risks

- 8.1 The way the lottery operates means that money is collected on a monthly basis and then paid to the supplier, good causes, Torbay Council and the prize fund with approximately £4,500 held at any one time. The supplier has appropriate cyber insurance and would self-fund any other risks.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact.
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact.
People with a disability			There is no differential impact.
Women or men			There is no differential impact.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			There is no differential impact.
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact.
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact.
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact.
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact.
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact.

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 None

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 None

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18 January 2022

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Safeguarding Adult Annual Report

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? For Information

Executive Lead Contact Details: Councillor Jackie Stockman. Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Public Health. Jackie.Stockman@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Joanna Williams, Director of Adult Social Services. 01803 207175 or 07766 160574 joanna.williams@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1 The Safeguarding Adult Annual Report sets out what we have achieved for local people in relation to the Safeguarding Adult statutory requirements and indicates our commitment to future service delivery.

2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement of the Care Act 2014, for each Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) to produce and publish an Annual Report and present this to Health and Wellbeing Board(s), however given the importance of the work of the Safeguarding Adults Board wider political oversight was sought.

3. Proposed Decision

- 3.1 To enable the Safeguarding Adult Annual Report to be published in accordance with Council's requirements

4. Recommendation/ Proposed Decision

- 4.1 That the Safeguarding Adult Annual Report set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Safeguarding Adult Report 2020/21

**Torbay & Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership
(TDSAP)**

2020-21 Annual Report



**Torbay and Devon
Safeguarding
Adults Partnership**

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Section 1: Chair's Foreword



1.1 Paul Northcott – Chair of the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP)

The merger of both the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Boards into the TDSAP has presented a unique opportunity to strengthen the partnership and build on the previous successes that have been achieved in both areas. I would like to thank the two previous Chairs and the senior managers for all of their commitment and vision in progressing the merger.

Joint working opportunities have enabled us to progress the work that has been detailed in this report whilst also enabling us to plan for the challenges that we will encounter in the future.

The new priorities for the partnership will ensure that we focus on those areas that will improve safeguarding practice and ensure that we are effectively working together to deliver services that meet the needs of vulnerable individuals and the wider community. Community and service user engagement continues to be developed and is seen by the partnership as essential in building on the progress that has been achieved and informing future practice.

1.2 Julie Foster – Former Chair of the Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board

Like many other organisations across the world, Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board has had to adjust the way it operates during the current pandemic. Meetings have had to be convened virtually and some of our activities suspended temporarily whilst pressing priorities to safeguard a much wider population were actioned.



The responsiveness and flexibility of our partners has been fantastic and, despite the need to work differently, safeguarding adult's activity has continued relentlessly and those at risk from harm have been protected. Steps have been taken to publish the help available in cases of both domestic and financial abuse - issues which caused a particular concern during lockdown. We have also taken steps to monitor the impact of very busy health and care systems on hospital discharge and care at home to ensure adults at risk do not fall through gaps.

It is to the credit of our senior managers that the plans to develop a new Safeguarding Adults Partnership between Devon and Torbay have reached fruition during the past year. Torbay is keen to maintain its own identity and has its own particular opportunities and threats, but it makes sense to build on our close links with Devon to provide a consistent approach across the area and to reduce the duplication and resource requirements of two separate Boards



1.3 Siân Walker – Former Chair of the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership

The pandemic had a massive impact on all of us, especially on vulnerable people living in Devon's communities. Whilst, like others, we had to adjust the way we worked, the Devon Safeguarding Adults Board continued to function well, adapting to more regular updates from statutory partners from the Council, Police, NHS and the voluntary and community sector. This provided information and data which enabled us to take immediate action where appropriate. The Board continued to function with virtual meetings but work behind the scenes changed as Board Support staff were deployed to front line services, importantly to resource services to support effective safeguarding. We maintained a good overview and I felt assured that safeguarding remained a top priority by all partners. I worked alongside other Safeguarding Chairs in the south-west so we could all learn from one another, adapt and be agile to these new circumstances. I ensured that we maintained our ability to respond well to the very many circumstances in which people found themselves, both citizens and professionals across the partnership, as we supported them all in their Covid response. Plans were progressed during this time to merge the Devon & Torbay Safeguarding Adults Boards, something which I fully supported in the knowledge that our partners worked across both Council areas, and it enabled a more dynamic and efficient way of working.

I was delighted, after chairing the Devon Safeguarding Partnership for 5 years, to leave it in a far healthier position. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to work across our county and delighted to hand over to Paul Northcott with the newly merged Partnership Board.

Section 2: Our Role and Purpose

The Torbay & Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP) is the collective name for the partners that work with the Board to safeguard adults across Torbay and Devon.

The **Torbay & Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP)** was founded in the final quarter of 2010/21 by Devon County Council and Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust as a requirement of the Care Act 2014. It provides strategic leadership for adult safeguarding across Torbay & Devon. Prior to the creation of the TDSAP there were two separate Boards operating in Torbay and Devon; the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership and the Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board.

The TDSAP is completely independent, with an independent chair.

The core objective of the Partnership, set out in section 43(2) of the Care Act 2014, is to help and protect adults in its area in cases where an adult has care and support needs and;

- They are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- As a result of those care and support needs, they are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect

The TDSAP acts as the key mechanism for agreeing how agencies work together to safeguard and promote the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk and/or in vulnerable situations. It does this by co-ordinating what each of the TDSAP members does and makes sure that they do it effectively.

The TDSAP multi-agency partnership, aims to promote awareness and understanding of abuse and neglect among service users, carers, professionals, care providers and the wider community. It works to generate community interest and engagement in safeguarding to make sure that **'safeguarding is everyone's business'**.

The TDSAP also commissions Safeguarding Adults Reviews for people who have experienced poor safeguarding outcomes, to ensure that lessons are learned for the future.

Section 3: Our Structure

The TDSAP established the below structure to undertake the work on behalf of the Partnership. These meetings are supported by the Partnership Business Manager and Partnership Co-Ordinator. Each sub-group has a regularly reviewed Terms of Reference.

When required, Task & Finish groups are established to deliver key elements of work commissioned by and reported to the Partnership. These Task and Finish groups comprise of representatives nominated by Partnership members who have sufficient knowledge and skills to contribute to the required task.



TDSAP Organisational Structure

Section 4: Our Partnership Members

The TDSAP has representatives from the following organisations; Torbay & South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Trust, University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England/Improvement, Torbay Council, Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Devon Partnership Trust, Livewell Southwest, South Western Ambulance Service Foundation Trust, Devon & Cornwall Police, HM Prison & Probation Service, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, Care Quality Commission, Living Options, Healthwatch, Trading Standards, Housing and The Department of Work and Pensions.

Section 5: Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Torbay & Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (TDSAP) must arrange a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) when an adult in its area dies as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is a concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult.

The TDSAP must also arrange a SAR if an adult in its area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced serious abuse or neglect. Boards may also arrange for a SAR in any other situations involving an adult in its area with needs for care and support.

Consistent SAR themes from 2020/21 referrals include:

- Mental Health
- Suicide
- Self-Neglect
- COVID Lockdown Impact

The SAR Core Group continues to meet quarterly and has done so throughout the COVID pandemic. The Core Group is attended by representatives from partner organisations including CCG, NHS, Local Authorities and the Police.

SAR Activity During 2020/21:

- There have been 24 SAR referrals during the period of 2020-2021.
- 10 SAR referrals were received by Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership. 3 SAR referrals were received by Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board. 11 SAR referrals were received by the TDSAP.
- There have been 4 SAR Learning Events across Torbay and Devon

In 2020-21 the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership published one SAR – ‘SAR Ben’.

Summary of SAR Ben:

Ben was 57 years old when he died. He was reported missing on 3rd November 2018. His body was found off the coast of Devon on 5th November 2018. He had not been seen for several days before this.

Ben had Huntington’s Disease. Huntington’s Disease is a relentlessly progressive neurodegenerative disorder which, for Ben, resulted in complex care needs. The difficulties Ben experienced as a result of the impact on his frontal lobe resulting from his Huntington’s Disease, impacted on his ability to cope with daily life.

Given Ben’s complex needs and associated risks, his care and support needed to be considered in a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary way.

At the time of his death Ben was being supported by several agencies. Ben's family held a view that a different approach to working alongside Ben was needed.

Learning Point: Experience, skills and confidence of staff working with Huntington's Disease

The experience, skills and confidence of staff working with someone who has a complex long-term condition plays a big part in the success of such support. In Ben's case more could have been done to utilise the expertise of both services and family members with relevant experience. Ben was well known to the Huntington's Disease regional advisor who could have been contacted to assist with care planning. However, this did not happen. Staff should have proactively engaged the support of condition-specific specialist services in their assessment and planning of care. There should have been greater focus on Ben's strengths and personal goals.

Learning Point: Mental health commissioning arrangements

The review highlights the disjointed nature of Devon mental health commissioning arrangements for people with a diagnosis of Huntington's Disease. In Devon there are several commissioned services within the community, both for long term conditions and mental health, which may be able to support a person's mental health needs. The suitability of the service would be dependent on a person's presentation, stage and primary need and diagnosis. In Ben's case, services available appeared to be based on diagnosis rather than need. As the Community Mental Health service in Devon is not commissioned to provide a single identified 'neuropsychiatric care' service, Ben did not receive community mental health support. There does not appear to have been consideration of alternative services to provide support. There is an apparent lack of awareness across the health and care system regarding the range of services available for people with a diagnosis of Huntington's Disease, the criteria, the limitations of the services, and how these services can be accessed.

Learning Point: Risk assessment and risk management

The perception that multi-agency risk management can't occur unless under the auspices of undertaking a safeguarding enquiry needs addressing. In Ben's case there was a significant delay in getting a multi-disciplinary team response to risk. There was a difference of opinion across organisations around what are acceptable levels of risk for Ben. There needs to be more regular use of multi-disciplinary risk management meetings with clear outcomes and actions attributed to all agencies. Multi-agency risk assessments must be of a sufficiently high standard and include feedback from key agencies and significant others in the person's life.

Further information on TDSAP SARs, including copies of previously published SARs, please visit our website.

For more information on how to raise a concern please visit our website.

Section 6: TDSAP Sub-Groups

6.1 Community Reference Group

The newly formed Joint TDSAP Community Reference Group (CRG) includes people recruited from local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and people with lived experience of the safeguarding process, across the TDSAP area.

The CRG has grown from strength to strength undertaking co-production, consultation and engagement work. Methods to gather intelligence have included focused task and finish groups, on-line and telephone surveys and varied user led dialogue. The CRG has provided new ways for people who have been through safeguarding processes to input directly into the work of the partnership.

The CRG provides feedback on key priorities for future work, is raising awareness of safeguarding with the adult population and two-way communication channels with representatives within and across the VCSE.

During 2021 the CRG brought the voice of the service user into the Annual Partnership Development Day and ensured that the voice of the people we support, remains central to the planning of future partnership priorities.

6.2 Learning & Improvement Sub-Group

The Learning and Improvement Subgroup has continued to undertake and complete key areas of work, despite meeting less frequently than usual in 2020/21 due to partner agencies responding to health and social priorities related to the COVID 19 pandemic. These areas of work include the Partnership reviewing, retendering and awarding a contract to provide a comprehensive range of safeguarding adults and mental capacity act training. The majority of the training during the year, was delivered virtually due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The safeguarding adults training strategy has remained a key focus following its approval last year. Assurance was sought from partners regarding individual progress in order to develop a partnership wide implementation plan.

6.3 Mental Capacity Act Sub-Group

Over the previous 12 -month period the work of the Mental Capacity Act Subgroup experienced some disruption as a consequence of the Covid19 pandemic response. Although some of the sub group meetings were stood down, to allow partners to concentrate on their COVID 19 pandemic responses, the existing work plan was regularly reviewed and updated once the group was in a position to reconvene.

There is renewed energy amongst our partners for collaborative working wherever possible and a recognition that there continues to be an ongoing need to increase legal literacy across operational staff groups to protect the wellbeing and rights of people we support across Torbay and Devon.

The priority work will continue to be focussed on the following areas:

- Increasing understanding and application of Legal Literacy across partner organisations
- The Liberty Protection Safeguards which are expected to come into force in 2022.
- The use of lawful restrictive measures
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005 learning outcomes from SARs

The group continues to work in tandem with the Learning and Improvement Sub Group and the interaction between these 2 sub-groups is regularly reviewed to ensure this organisational arrangement is fit for purpose to help deliver the strategic priorities of the partnership.

6.4 Operational Delivery Group

The Operational Delivery Group (ODG) oversees all of the above sub-groups and reports directly to the Partnership Board. In 2021/21, following a review of the Safeguarding Insight Data, the ODG established four Task and Finish groups to review the data and suggest areas for improvements. The four groups focused on; Care Homes, Types of Abuse, Blue Light Services and Health Referrals.

The Partnership has been supporting the Local Authorities to help inform a national picture in relation to the COVID 19 pandemic. The results of which are shared back to local authorities and our Partnership to inform future learning opportunities, via an Insights Data Report.

The ODG continues to review and consider developing areas of adults safeguarding to ensure that partners are well informed to respond to emerging themes and trends.

Section 7: TDSAP Priorities 2020/21

Prior to the establishment of the TDSAP in Dec 2020, the Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board and the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership had separate strategic priorities held within their own business plans.

Former Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB)

The TSAB Business Plan was for the period 2018-2021 and included the below priorities:

1. Embedding Making Safeguarding Personal
2. Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews
3. The Interface Between Safeguarding Adults at Risk and Domestic Abuse / Sexual Violence
4. Preventative and Creative Solutions
5. Mental Capacity Act
6. Market Shaping and Commissioning

Former Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP)

The DSAP Business Plan for 2020-2021 included the below priorities:

1. Safeguarding within the Covid-19 Pandemic:
 - To work in partnership to ensure continuity of safeguarding adults business.
2. Living Well:
 - The DSAP Board aims to support partners to deliver preventative actions, to safeguard those with care and support needs through learning together and delivering change.

Copies of both of the above business plans can be found on our partnership website.

Section 8: Our Work During 2020/21

COVID-19 had a significant impact on both Safeguarding Adults Boards and the newly merged Board and the core work that continued during the pandemic. A decision was made, in consultation with partners, to re-prioritise and strategically pause some work, to enable partners to concentrate on their pandemic response as a priority.

Despite adopting a focus on statutory assurance and support, the Boards continued to maintain their Care Act 2014 obligations for safeguarding adults with regular assurance gained from their key safeguarding partners.

Partners provided assurance reports to the Independent Chairs including updates on their COVID 19 crisis response. This approach ensured that partners provided proportionate strategic overview during the pandemic.

In December 2021 the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership and the Torbay Safeguarding Adults Board merged to form the TDSAP. This included a successful process to appoint a new Independent Chair to the TDSAP. The merger was completed in Quarter 4 of 2020/21 and since then the TDSAP has been working to ensure their policies and procedures are aligned across the new partnership.

The TDSAP has undertaken a review of Safeguarding and Mental Capacity Act training to ensure the offer from the TDSAP is up to date and in line with legal literacy. The TDSAP increased safeguarding training capacity for partners to meet increased demand following an awareness campaign launched in 2020.

The TDSAP undertook a review of the referral process for SARs as a result of an increased number of SARs being received. An evaluation criteria was introduced to ensure the process is as effective and efficient as possible.

Learning from SARS continues to be a priority piece of work for the TDSAP going into 2021/22 and beyond, as detailed in the Strategic Priorities 2021/2024.

Section 9: Looking Ahead

The Strategic Priorities for the TDSAP have been agreed and published in the 2021-2024 TDSAP Business Plan.

A copy of the strategic priorities can be found by clicking here: [Strategic Priorities 2021/2024](#)

The priorities are detailed below:

Strategic Priority	What we will do to deliver this priority
<p>To embed the learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) into organisational practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners will contribute to the SAR process and play a key role to identify the relevant learning • We will embed a process to identify immediate learning and implement this swiftly • We will ensure the learning is SMART with key success criteria in place • Partners will provide strong evidence to assure the TDSAP that sustained improvements have been embedded • Promote multi-organisational communication, ensuring cooperation as an underlying key principle • Develop swift and dynamic processes for delivery of Safeguarding Adults Reviews • Each Safeguarding Adults Review will have an underlying principle to 'Focus on the Learning' for each organisation • We will regularly monitor, identify and resolve reoccurring SAR themes to prevent reoccurrence

Strategic Priority	What we will do to deliver this priority
<p>To work with partners to better understand and reduce the risk of ‘Hidden Harm’, especially in the context of COVID 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage all safeguarding partners to focus on the ‘Hidden Harm’ that is usually out of sight from public view and often not recognised or reported • Ensure that the emphasis is on having a culture of ‘spotting early signs’ to prevent risks escalating • Use COVID 19 data and information to seek assurance that partners are all uncovering and responding to hidden harm • Ensure that all safeguarding partners who work with people who have needs for care and support, exercise professional curiosity and take appropriate action • Embed the theme of ‘professional curiosity’ within multi agency case audits (MACA) • Develop and deliver a multi-organisational workshop and awareness campaign for partners and service representatives to better understand, encourage and support professional curiosity and escalation within their organisations
<p>To improve outcomes for people with needs for care and support by finding the right solution for them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek assurance that partners and service representatives work together to establish more effective coordination to achieve person centred solutions • Work with partners and service representatives to better understand and embed a creative approach to finding effective solutions for people with complex lives • We will develop and share key data and information to help develop effective communications and co-ordination between partner organisations, including strengthening links with the districts and community safety partners • We will focus on preventative strategies to better understand how we can avoid the need for safeguarding intervention • We will work with service representatives and commissioning partners to better understand people’s needs and support them to achieve their desired outcomes • To have regular assurance from partners that people are safeguarded during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and that attention to safeguarding continues in accordance with statutory responsibilities, recognising that some people will be put at greater risk as a consequence of the pandemic

Strategic Priority	What we will do to deliver this priority
Improving Involvement and Engagement with people in receipt of safeguarding services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will build on past Safeguarding Awareness Campaigns by targeting communications within our communities to raise further awareness of safeguarding • We will learn from COVID 19 experiences and use this feedback to shape future engagement • We will work with key partners to improve the interface with children's services especially for those who transition to adult services • To seek assurance that all partners are involving and listening to people about their experience of safeguarding • Ensuring that all people are listening to, valuing and responding to relatives, friends and people in communities • The partnership will have a focus on 'Making Safeguarding Personal' to ensure that safeguarding is person-led and outcome-focussed • We will continue to invest and engage with community groups to ensure the 'voice of the person' is central to partnership working

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18 January 2022

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Fostering Annual Report 2021-22

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? For Information

Executive Lead Contact Details: Councillor Cordelia Law. Cabinet Member for Children's Services. cordelia.law@torbay.gov.uk

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Becky Thompson, Head of Regulated Services. 01803 208 100, becky.thompson@torbay.gov.uk.

1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1 The Fostering Annual Report sets Torbay's vision for the Fostering Service, its core principles, its key aims, main priorities and actions, the role of the Fostering Service and its various functions, the Fostering Service organisational structure, recruitment performance information, an outline of the fostering recruitment and marketing strategy and campaign, improvements in terms of foster carer support and retention, information relating to the Special Guardianship support team and next steps.

2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement established by the National Minimum Standards for Fostering for each Local Authority to produce and publish an Annual Report and present this to the Corporate Parenting Board. This Annual Report should be considered in conjunction with the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose, required under the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011, which is also included as an appendix. Given the importance of the work of the Fostering Service in the wider context of Children's Services and the sufficiency strategy, wider political oversight was sought.

3. Proposed Decision

- 3.1 To enable the Fostering Annual Report 2021-22 to be published in accordance with Council's requirements

4. Recommendation/ Proposed Decision

- 4.1 That the Fostering Annual Report 2021-22 set out in Appendix 1 be noted.
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Appendices

Appendix 1: Fostering Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix 2: Fostering Statement of Purpose

Fostering Services Annual Report 2021/22



As a service we aim to be:

- F – forward-thinking and focused on the continued professional development of our staff and our carers
- O – open to transparent communication and participation with our fostering families
- S – safe, secure and stable
- T – trustworthy and reliable
- E – encouraging and proactive in respect of our fostering families’ education and training
- R – robust in respect of statutory and regulatory compliance
- I – innovative in terms of service organisation and development
- N – nurturing, supportive and caring
- G – guided by best practice

Executive summary

This document is intended to read alongside the revised Torbay Fostering Statement of Purpose 2021-22.

Torbay Council have continued to revise their sufficiency strategy. The aims of the sufficiency strategy are summarised below:

Torbay’s Sufficiency Strategy

Torbay Council's vision is to provide sufficient care in the community and high quality placements for children and young people in its care which meet their needs and offer the necessary support to enable their aspirations to become their reality.

Torbay aims to:

- Strengthen the delivery of edge of care, early help, early intervention and prevention services.
- Increase the numbers of in-house foster carers and review our existing bank of carers to develop and match their skills to the needs of our children.
- Reduce the use of out of local area provision which may disadvantage our children and young people.
- Increase the number of adopters who can adopt children who are known to be harder to place.
- Provide young people who are leaving care with a variety of placement choices and support to independence.
- Provide a robust commissioning framework which is effectively responding to the sufficiency challenges and driving up standards.
- Improve the overall data capture and data management of cared for children to better inform this strategy and improve accurate responses to sufficiency challenges.
- Raise our aspirations for educational attainment and other outcomes for cared for children.
- Continue to build on the strength of the Torbay Corporate Parenting Board.

In July 2021, 33% of cared for children and young people were placed more than twenty miles from the address they lived in at the point of becoming cared for. It must be noted that, for some of these young people, they are placed in certain locations in line with their wishes and feelings, and close to family networks in other areas. Similarly, due to the size and location of Torbay, a number of these cared for children are placed in neighbouring Local Authorities such as Devon and Cornwall, just outside of the twenty mile cut-off. Only 11% of our cared for children live outside of Torbay and neighbouring Local Authorities as of the 16th July 2021.

16th July 2021	Total cared for = 306
102 children placed out of county excluding those placed for adoption	33%
68 placed in neighbouring LAs	22%
34 outside of Torbay and neighbouring LAs	11%

As of July 2021, there were 79 children placed 20 miles or more away from their home (excluding those placed for adoption) or 26% of the cared for population of Torbay; this is a reduction from 2019-20 and 29.9% in June 2020. Overall, 102 children are placed outside of the authority's boundaries, which is 33%. The latest comparator figures show the national mean to be at 16% for children placed 20 or more miles away.

However, this must be taken in the context of the fact that Torbay is a small unitary Authority, and small in terms of its size; therefore, a cared for child placed in Newton Abbot [fifteen minutes by car] would still be counted as a cared for child placed outside of Torbay. That said, Torbay recognises the increased vulnerability of such placements and have devised an Out of County Placement Protocol which was endorsed in August 2021 and is now being implemented across Children's Services; this protocol advises of the specific role of the social worker, Team Manager and senior leadership team in supporting these cared for children and tracking and monitoring their placements, as well as particular expectations in terms of placement and care planning. An Out of County Placement Tracker is kept and maintained by the Head of Service for Regulated Services and monitored on a monthly basis; this forms the basis for quality assurance oversight in respect of the care planning and adherence to the protocol in respect of these cared for children.

The number of cared for children is, as of the 20th August 2021, 301 children. This is a reduction from 330 cared for children in August 2020. There are continued efforts to reduce the number of cared for children in Torbay, as a result of the implementation of the new Early Help Strategy, a focus on post final Order permanence planning, enhanced transition planning, more robust oversight of pre-birth planning, improved timeliness in terms of pre-proceedings and proceedings and stringent senior management of care planning for children through the implementation of a range of Panels. However, this will not be an overnight reduction and therefore it is imperative that placement sufficiency, and in particular the development of our in-house fostering provision, remains a key strategic priority. There is a continued need for a collective view that our cared for children have a right and a need for high quality, safe placements in their local area.

The key priorities and actions of the service in 2020/21 have been:

- The Fostering Service have continued implementation of a revised fee structure for Torbay Foster Carers, implemented in 2020, and linking this both to skills of the carer and to the age of the child.
- The Recruitment and Events Co-Ordinator role is now embedded in the Fostering Assessment Team.
- The training provided to foster carers has been reviewed; there are plans to expand on existing training opportunities, and others have been introduced or re-introduced following foster carer feedback. A cohort of foster carers will also be accessing training which will focus on trauma informed practice and providing support and training in the use of Non-Violent Resistance from September 2021.
- The Fostering Service have continued to run support groups, both internally and with input from CAMHS, to provide foster carers with therapeutic and emotional support.
- The 'Edge of Care' team [this is due to be renamed with a more restorative lens] criteria has been reviewed and now allows access for foster carers experiencing placement instability to access this provision, to promote resilience in care arrangements and to promote placement stability. The out of hours 'Edge of Care' team has now been implemented as part of the Summer Strategy, enabling fostering families to access support from 6pm-10pm weekdays and 12pm-10pm on weekends and Bank Holidays, in addition to their access to the Emergency Duty Service.
- The Placements Team continue to build positive relationships with independent fostering agencies and placement providers and this relationship-based approach has been instrumental in working with providers to identify suitable and viable placement options for children and young people. An example of this effective joint work is in respect of one young person currently cared for within a residential setting; the Placements Team have worked closely with an independent fostering agency in respect of a step down placement more local to Torbay, in which intensive intervention can take place to prepare this young person for returning to a family setting. Alongside this, joint work between the Placements Team and the agency will be concurrent, to search for and secure an appropriate family fostering placement for him.
- In addition, the Peninsula contract ensures ongoing work with Plymouth, Devon and Somerset, with thirteen placement providers on this contract who are able to offer local fostering and residential provisions to the cared for child of Torbay. This contract is now in its fourth year, with a tender evaluation planned this year to prepare for a new contact being implemented in April 2021. Regular contract monitoring meetings take place on a quarterly basis, which an ongoing understanding of the sufficiency of placements, the progress of recruitment and the mechanism through which quality assurance is undertaken.
- In terms of in-house provision, there continues to be a focus and drive in terms of fostering recruitment and assessment, in conjunction with a clear communications plan and targeted recruitment of fostering families who may

be able to offer placements to children whereby there is a gap in the current local provision. This includes ongoing recruitment to the Resilience Fostering Pathway, which is focused on the recruitment of foster carers with specific skills, capacity and knowledge in respect of the care of older children, or children with complex needs.

- The Fostering Service have entered into a three year agreement with Home for Good. Work is currently being undertaken jointly with commissioning in respect of a joint project between Torbay Children's Services and Home for Good. Home for Good is a national Christian fostering and adoption focused charity working to inspire Christians to foster or adopt and equipping the church communities to support those who are caring for vulnerable children. Home for Good works with local authorities to develop and strengthen connections with local churches around foster carer recruitment and retention so they can best meet their obligations as corporate parents to the children in their care. Home for Good have developed a variety of resources to support prospective carers to explore whether fostering or adoption is for them, including online events and a national enquiry line to provide information for those exploring and support for those already caring.
- A reviewed and updated Fostering Statement of Purpose has been completed, which incorporates a Torbay Fostering Family charter of expectations of the corporate parent, the fostering service and the fostering family. This is currently out for consultation pending further amendments and it is hoped this will be ratified by the beginning of September 2021 by the senior leadership team.

This report will identify some of the improvements made in terms of performance, participation, fostering recruitment and the implementation of a restorative model which incorporates our fostering families

Introduction

This is a report of the Fostering Service and covers the period of August 2021 – July 2022.

This report will address the roles and functions of the Fostering Service and should be read in conjunction with the Fostering Statement of Purpose 2021-22.

Throughout 2020-21 and as we continue through 2021-22, the Fostering Service has endeavored to ensure that there are a range of placement options for children which offer both high quality and cultural appropriateness. We recognize that much more still needs to be done in order to provide a fully diverse range of placement options which will meet the needs of the children of Torbay and 2021/22 will be crucial in demonstrating how the service is meeting these demands.

Please note: for the purpose of this document, the word 'placement' is used throughout. In line with the implementation of the restorative model, it is fully recognized that this word may not be the right choice for individual children; however, each child will wish for the place where they live to be called something different, and home can have powerful connotations for cared for children and young people and therefore placement is used in this instance.

Role of the Fostering Service

The Fostering Service continues to develop and improve practice to meet the needs of cared for children in Torbay in line with the requirements of National Minimum Standards 2011 and Fostering Regulations.

Torbay Fostering Service aim a range of fostering placements which meet the needs of our cared for children:

Emergency Fostering Placements

These are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home at short notice, and for short period of time.

Short Term Fostering Placements

These are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home on a short term basis; this could be for anything up to two years, for children who are cared for subject to proceedings and who need a safe and secure home whilst decisions are made about their care. These carers may then be involved in bridging to adoption, support to reunification, transition to other family care arrangements, transition to a longer term fostering placement or bridging to independence.

Long Term/Permanent Placements

These are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home to children whose plan is one of long term fostering, and when final decisions have been made that a child cannot return home to the care of their parent/s or previous caregiver. These long term placements offer security and stability for children for their minority and often into their

adulthood. These carers make a long term commitment to a child, and are often matched as a long term permanent placement for the child following a year in placement, through the Permanence Panel.

Respite Placements

These are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home to children, who are often in a long term placement, as part of their plan of stability and permanence within that placement, to provide appropriate support to long term carers. At times, these placements may be used as a short term measure, and as part of the bridging process to alternative placements.

Parent and Child Placements

Torbay do not currently offer parent and child placements however we have identified a number of carers who have an interest in offering this type of placement, and are looking to support them with training opportunities to enable them to do this.

These are carers with specific training who can offer placement to parent/s and child/ren. These may be young parents, under the age of sixteen, or parents of any age, who require intensive support, guidance and modelling to developing their parenting capacity in a safe environment.

Placements for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers

These are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home to unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people, to enable them to adjust fully to being in a new country, and provide a nurturing safe base from which these young people can begin to recover from their experiences and forge a life for themselves in their new surroundings.

Sibling placements

These are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home to sibling groups, not only due to the physical Foster carers who have the skills, the physical accommodation and support within the home to offer placements for sibling groups of two or more.

Resilience placements

Resilience foster carers are carers who are able to offer a fostering family home to support young people aged 10-18 years who currently live in residential care and/or who may have particularly complex needs, or young people who may be in the youth justice system. For those who have the knowledge, skills and experience to care for a child with these needs, it's a unique fostering opportunity where carers provide long term, family based placements, fostering one young person and supporting them into adult life.

Staying Put Placements

These are carers who are able to offer a home to those care experienced young people aged eighteen and above who they have previously fostered.

All foster carers are supervised and supported by social workers within the fostering service and this includes all Connected Carers who are afforded opportunities to engage in training and support alongside other foster carers.

The overall aim of the Fostering Service is to provide a range of high quality, safe and aspirational foster placements that meet the needs of Torbay children looked after.

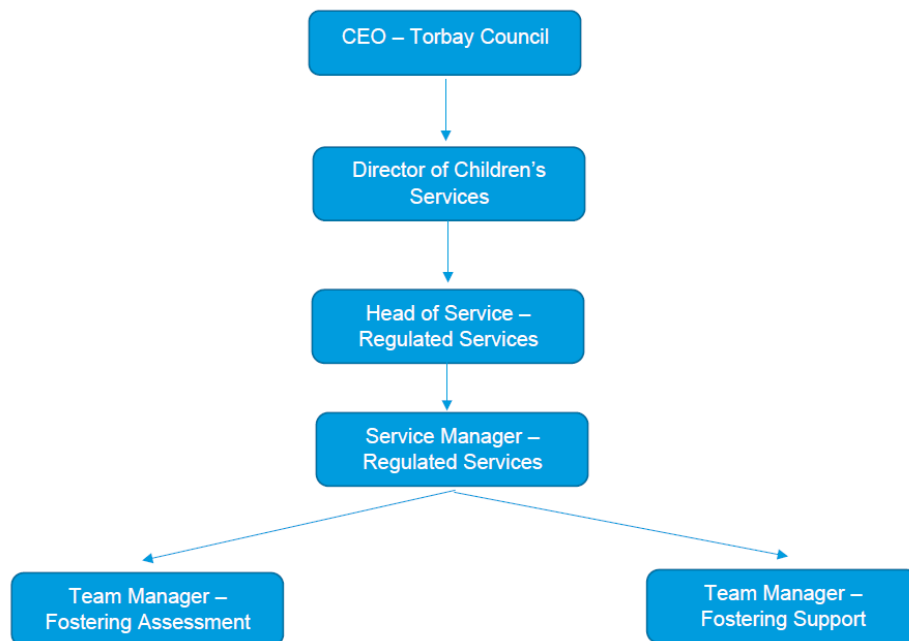
Torbay Fostering Service's objectives for service provision are:

- We want cared for children to live in an environment which is warm, stable and consistent.
- We want cared for children to have access to fostering homes which provide a safe, secure and nurturing base from which they grow into confident and happy young people who have aspirations for their future.
- We want cared for children to feel supported to achieve the best possible outcomes, not only in the short term but in the medium to long term too.
- We want cared for children to feel fully involved in their planning.
- We want cared for children to feel like they have a voice in the development of services designed to support them.
- We want social workers to understand the value of the fostering role and how their actions and practice can support the delivery of high quality fostering services.
- We want to provide social workers with the relevant training and development opportunities to help them to under this.
- We want to provide fostering families with high quality and individualised training and development opportunities.
- We want to provide support of out fostering families which is personalised and inclusive of appropriate support out of hours.
- We want to continue to recruit fostering families who have a wide range of skills and experience, who can offer homes to a wider range of cared for children, including sibling groups, older children or those children who may have additional needs.
- We want to continue to recruit fostering families from a diverse background who can offer a range of homes for cared for children, thereby enhancing the quality of the matching process.
- We want to be a service which demonstrates its core values of equality and the value of diversity through its operational actions as well as its strategic review of practice, policy, training and development.
- We want to be a service which is absolutely compliant with the statutory, regulatory and legislative framework under which we work.
- We want to be a service which recognises learning opportunities and ensures that service delivery is robustly monitored, reviewed and developed.
- We want to develop a team approach, which centres on the child and their needs, and which ensures that all involved in supporting a child are focused on the achievement of best practice.

Organisational Structure

Torbay Fostering Service is based at Children's Services, Tor Hill House in Torquay, and sits under Regulated Services. The Fostering Service consists of two teams: Fostering Assessment and Fostering Support.

The governance structure is as follows:



Day-to-day management and development of services is overseen by the two Team Managers, who are both qualified managers with experience in social work with children and families. Both Team Managers oversee a team of staff, inclusive of fostering assessment social workers, fostering supervising social workers, Community Care Workers, business support officers and a Recruitment and Events Co-ordinator. Our Fostering Assessment Team focuses on recruitment activity, assessments of prospective foster carers and support for prospective fostering families going through the Panel approval process.

The Recruitment and Events Co-ordinator role is a new role within the Torbay Fostering Service; this is an officer who works closely with the Fostering Assessment Team Manager, Communications and other professionals to understand our local demographic and support them to view the potential skills people may have for fostering, thereby contributing to the development of a wider range of fostering families and skillsets.

Our Fostering Support team focuses on the support and supervision offered to approved foster carers, support through the Annual Review process, ongoing or updating assessments and investigations, participation and feedback work, training and development and the implementation of support groups and other celebratory and collective opportunities for our cared for children and their fostering families.

Torbay has its own Fostering Panel that meets regularly to make recommendations for the approval of foster carer candidates as well as to receive reviews of approval. The panel also consider other matters that are brought to them by the social work team.

Torbay Children's Services also has its own Learning Academy, and works with a number of universities to offer social work placements for students as well as offering a robust and supportive programme for Newly Qualified Social Workers employed by Torbay, some of whom may work within the Fostering Service.

All the Managers and Supervising or Assessing Social Workers hold social work qualifications and are registered with the Social Work England.

All staff working at Torbay have access to a wide range of continued professional development and training opportunities which are co-ordinated by Torbay's Learning Academy.

The social work staff establishment on 1st August 2021 comprised of:

- Two permanent Team Manager
- Two permanent Assistant Team Managers
- Seven supervising social workers (Fostering Support)
- Eight assessing social workers (Fostering Assessment)
- Five Community Care Workers
- One Recruitment and Events Co-Ordinator
- One Fostering Panel Chair
- Fostering Panel members

Recruitment Performance

During 2020/2021, the fostering service received a total of 111 initial enquiries; as a result of these enquiries, twenty fostering households were approved.

Years	Number of enquiries	Approvals	Conversion
2014- 2015	118	29	24%
2015- 2016	65	10	15%
2016- 2017	42	3	7%
2017 - 2018	86	10	12%
2018 - 2019	45	4	9%
2019 - 2020	51	2	4%
2020 - 2021	111	20	18%
2021 – 2022 (to date) as of 17/08/21	41	3	

The conversion of enquiries to approval as foster carers during 2020/21 has increased by 14% on the previous year. This is likely to be as a direct result of the increased focus on the fostering communication, recruitment and marketing strategy.

As a baseline expectation, the Fostering Service aim to increase the number of fostering households by a minimum of ten per year; whilst twenty fostering family households were approved in this year, there were also a number of resignations which have impacted on the total number of approved fostering families as outlined below.

Numbers of Foster Carers (as at 17th August 2021):

As of 17th August 2021, the total number of approved fostering households was 82 which is comprised as follows:

Total Beds	155	
Current Placements	109	70%
Vacancies	6	4%
Respite Beds	10	6%
Voids	30	19%

In April 2020, the total number of approved fostering households was 86.

It is recognized that the overall number of approved fostering households has decreased from last year, despite the fact that the number of initial enquiries and approvals had increased. This is in line with information shared across the Peninsula in respect of resignations and deregistration. It is highly likely that this local and national picture has been impacted upon by a number of different factors however the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is a particularly influencing factor. The pandemic has led a number of fostering families to re-evaluate their current priorities and life goals, whether due to ill health, personal loss, health anxieties, a change in career or employment and other personal factors. A number of fostering families have, as a result of these changes in their circumstances, reconsidered their capacity to offer a fostering family home to cared for children.

Throughout 2020/2021 financial year there have been **0** cases through the Independent Review Mechanism process.

From 1st of April 2020 to 31st of March 2021, fourteen mainstream foster families were deregistered for the reasons as outlined below:

- Four Standards of Care/resignations.
- One fostering family moved to adult care provision.
- One fostering family moved to a different job which impacted on their ability to foster.
- One fostering family had a newborn baby and made the decision that they need to focus on their birth children and their business.
- One fostering family moved out of the area and resigned from fostering due to family commitments.
- Three fostering families became adopters.
- Three fostering families retired.

In addition, there were six Connected Carers, specific to a particular child, whose resignation was due to a Special Guardianship Order being granted.

Recruitment and Marketing Strategy and Campaign

Fostering recruitment remains a key strategic focus within Regulated Services. Whilst continuing to recognize the immense skill and expertise contained within our current fostering family cohort, there is an ongoing need to expand the placement sufficiency and variety we are able to offer our cared for children. Whilst the number of cared for children continues to decrease, the needs of cared for children do not and there is specifically a need to develop our in-house ability to provide placement options for: older children; children with additional needs; children with complex needs; young people bridging out of residential provisions; unaccompanied asylum seeking children; sibling groups.

The reinvigorated recruitment campaign launched in May 2020 and continues to be reviewed and built upon.

The introduction of the Recruitment and Events Co-Ordinator has strengthened our recruitment focus and drive; the Co-Ordinator leads on engagement and marketing opportunities, as well as engaging with the local community and local business in respect of our Fostering Offer, and is now being linked regularly into Fostering Network meetings.

From September 2021, we will be re-running the marketing campaign on bus routes and on bus stops across Torbay, with a particular focus on the concept that you do not need to live in Torbay to foster for Torbay.

We have a regular marketing campaign running in local magazines, for example the Beach Hut publication, and are looking to expand on this in line with new community opportunities; we have begun to target specific publications, such as Police Life, with a particular focus on the Resilience fostering pathway due to the professional and personal skills and attributes of those perhaps retiring or moving on from careers in policing, nursing, teaching or other occupations which lend themselves to skills for fostering.

The Fostering Team were present at the Devon County Show from the 2nd July to the 4th July; the communications team promoted this through social media. This generated **eight** really good enquiries on Sunday 2nd July 2021 and a number of discussions with potential fostering families, which will hopefully convert to initial enquiries imminently. The Gun stand said that they have a lot of members who would love to become Foster Carers however are worried that, as they own guns, they will be refused. Under the National Minimum Standards, anyone who wishes to foster has to store and register firearms safely and there is strict guidance in respect of owning a gun. Fostering have taken their details in the hope that the team may be able to explore the rules and regulations with regards owning a gun.

The mayor of Exeter approached the team and commented on how fantastic the work Torbay were doing with regards to Fostering. The use of the QR code was seen as particularly effective and allowed for enquiries to be processed in the immediacy.

Torbay Council have now entered into a three year contract with Home For Good, and have entered into the engagement phase with our local families of faith. Peter Clayton delivered a speech to the congregation of St Mary Magdalene's Church in Torquay on the 19th June 2021, and delivered the message about the joint work being undertaken by Home For Good and Torbay to consider fostering as part our faith outworking. The

Home for Good Torbay coordinator role is now being advertised and should be filled shortly. Regular catch up meetings are in place between Regulated Services and Home for Good in respect of the progress of their engagement work and all fostering social workers have now been subject to Home for Good Faith Literacy training which took place on the 22nd June 2021. There are plans to link Torbay Fostering Service with the Home for Good Facebook page and for a link to our website to be added to their homepage.

The Fostering Service have already begun to send out enquiries about the likelihood of 2022 taking place, considering the implications of the pandemic, and how the Fostering Service can be a presence at these events; this includes events such as Children's Activity Week, the Babbacombe Fair and the Pedal Car Grand Prix.

A monthly meeting is now embedded, involving the Recruitment and Events Co-Ordinator, the Fostering Assessment Team Manager, and the Service Manager and Head of Service for Regulated, to review and monitor recruitment activity.

Next steps in terms of recruitment are:

- Enhance our use of social media, including Facebook Live drop-in sessions.
- Consultation with HR in respect of how Torbay Council as an employer can support employees considering fostering.
- Write an article about the benefits of fostering to be published in the local newspaper and as an online article.
- Confirm attendance at future events.
- Aim to replicate the success of the Train of Light Christmas event for fostering families and cared for children.
- Develop a Corporate Parenting Offer, detailing the offers made by local businesses in respect of cared for children, care experienced adults and fostering families.

Foster carer support

Performance

Torbay Fostering Service aim to provide the best possible care for children and maintain high standards in respect of children's care. In order to ensure that this is consistently achieved, Torbay have rigorous and comprehensive quality assurance frameworks in place, with audit activity across Children's Services taking place regularly.

The Fostering Service routinely provides reports in respect of the profile of the cared for children cohort and their placement types, information relating to vacancies and investigations, recruitment activity and performance, staffing considerations, training and development, service outcomes and aims and any other information relating to the performance of the service and the wellbeing of our fostering families and our cared for children.

Themes and patterns arising from Fostering Panels are tracked and monitored, with specific actions arising from any consistent areas for development.

Compliance with policies and procedures is monitored by managers in supervision and audit and dip sample activity. All staff receive regular supervision, the frequency agreed according to their role, experience and need.

The performance of the service is also monitored by Ofsted inspections, the Corporate Parenting Board, the Sufficiency Board, the Children's Operational Board, the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the senior leadership team.

Areas of key quality assurance focus for the Torbay Fostering Service are:

- *The numbers of cared for children, in relation to their plan of permanence.
- *Placement stability, with a key focus on minimising disruption for cared for children and enhancing placement stability which involves monitoring the number of placement changes for cared for children.
- *Placement sufficiency and the recruitment of new fostering families.
- *Compliance, including foster carer training, DBC checks, timely Annual Reviews and fulfilment of basic training requirements.
- *Timely and quality foster carer supervision.
- *Purposeful and comprehensive placement planning meetings.
- *The use of placement support and stability meetings.

Over the last year we have established a process and developed the performance indicator system to ensure that we have management oversight on all of our fostering files. This makes sure that foster carers are receiving regular supervision and that their annual reviews remain on time.

The Fostering Service have consistently improved on their performance in the four Key Performance indicators. As of June 2021:

- Foster carers with up-to-date training – 98% (last reported figure 98%)
- Foster carers with up-to-date DBS – 98% (last reported figure 98%)
- Foster carers with up-to-date medical – 100% (last reported figure 100%)
- Foster carers with up-to-date Annual Review – 100% (last reported figure 100%)

This is a regular focus of the monthly performance surgeries.

Support Groups

Torbay Fostering Service also run a number of support groups, which are organised at various times throughout the year and through various platforms. Torbay are committed to learning from feedback and participation and are constantly looking for ways in which we can make our training as accessible and purposeful and meaningful for fostering families as possible.

It is intended that support groups provide an opportunity for fostering families to meet with each other and share their views and experiences of fostering; in addition, fostering families can access support, guidance and signposting through these groups, and receive information about recent changes to policies and guidance and practice.

Currently, Torbay Fostering Service offer:

*A support group run by CAMHS which offers support through a therapeutic lens.

*Special Guardianship Support group for all Special Guardians receiving support from the Special Guardianship Team.

*A general foster carer support group.

Foster carers receive financial payment that values and respects their skills, learning and commitment. Detailed financial information and guidance around expectations are made available to each foster carer.

Quarterly Foster Carer forums are held, during which we invite guest speakers to share knowledge and expertise from their field. Additionally, fostering support groups are run monthly with staggered times (including evenings) and venues to ensure those foster carers that wish to attend are able to do so.

We are looking to introduce further support groups, including one for single carers and one for Connected Carers.

Out of hours support

Torbay Fostering Service currently also have access to an out of hours team which offers direct support to fostering families whereby issues in relation to placement instability have been identified; this is operating currently on a three month basis and provides support from 6pm-10pm each weekday evening and from 12pm-10pm on weekends and Bank Holidays.

Support during Allegations

Torbay Fostering Service also commission specialist support, for example mediation or advocacy services, in situations whereby this is required for foster carers through the allegation process.

Training

At Torbay, we believe that every moment of the fostering experience provides rich opportunity for learning and development; we are committed to supporting fostering families to grow and learn and develop their practice, and recognise that this will be on an individualised basis, with at times a bespoke training need.

Fostering families begin their training journey during the assessment and approval process and build on this learning as they move on to complete the Training, Support and Development Standards. Fostering families receive a full induction, in order to enable them to understand the expectations of the fostering role, the key principles and values which underpin the fostering role and how they can best meet the needs of the cared for children they may be supporting and caring for.

Foster Carer training includes:

Record Keeping for Foster Carers

Safer Caring

LADO Role and Allegations Against Foster Carers

SGO PACE Training
Delegated Authority for Foster Carers
Paediatric First Aid
Life Story Work
Introduction to attachment theory and practice
Grief, Loss and Change
Family Time Supervision
Bridging to Adoption
Fostering Changes Training

In certain circumstances, Torbay Fostering Service will explore alternative types of bespoke training for individual or groups of fostering families, where this is an identified need.

In September 2021, we are looking to provide bespoke NVR and DDP training to a group of twenty identified carers who:

- *Are existing foster carers who have considered the resilience pathway or who might consider the resilience pathway
- *Are existing foster carers whose preference is for the older age range, or who have expressed an interest in fostering children with additional need or complexity.
- *New foster carers who meet the above two conditions.

Special Guardianship support team

As of March 2019, all Special Guardianship assessments and Special Guardianship Support has been held within the Fostering Service.

The Fostering Assessment team are responsible for the assessment process itself, including support for the prospective Special Guardian and input into the formulation of the Special Guardianship Support plan. Once a Special Guardianship Order is made, Special Guardians can access support through the Fostering Support team.

As part of the quality assurance framework activity, the Head of Service has undertaken a dip sample of all Special Guardianship arrangements made by Torbay which gave the following overall view:

The earliest Special Guardianship Order made in Torbay was granted on the **6th December 2006**.

Since this date, a further **171** Special Guardianship Orders have been granted, totalling **172** children and young people. A further **eight** children have been made subject to Residence or Child Arrangement Orders in this timeframe.

The median age of a child, at the point of Special Guardianship being granted, is **three years old**, which is possibly a reflection of early action being taken to safeguard children and make decisions about their permanence.

102 Orders were made to Special Guardians within the Torbay locality.

125 Special Guardianship arrangements remain the responsibility of Torbay in terms of the provision of support services, either due to the Special Guardians living in Torbay or due to the fact that the Order was made in the last three years.

38 Special Guardians are currently receiving active support through the Special Guardianship Team, which is currently held in Fostering Support. Some of the children within these Special Guardianship arrangements are also supported in other areas of the service.

Three children have an active service from the Children with Disabilities Team.

Seventeen children have an active service, either under Child in Need or Child Protection, from Operational Services.

Two children have an active service from Single Assessment and are in the process of an assessment of need being completed.

A **further child** has recently closed following a period of CIN planning; one child has just closed to the single assessment team in June 2021; **three** children stepped down to Targeted Help in June 2021 following a period of Child in Need planning.

Seven children are in foster care conversion Special Guardianship arrangements.

Devon Audit Partnership undertook an audit in respect of Special Guardianship in 2018/19. The following table outlines the recommendations made at this stage and the subsequent progress made against these recommendations:

<p>The local practice guidance should be formally reviewed, with input from all parties, including Children's Services, Legal and Business Support. It should be applicable to all SGO situations, regardless of whether the child was previously in foster care, with clear signposting in relation to which sections apply to each situation. Going forward, it should be subject to regular review, with updates being made only when agreed by all parties.</p>	<p>All Special Guardianship Order assessments are now undertaken by social workers within the Fostering Assessment Team; all support for children subject to these Orders and their families is co-ordinated through the Fostering Support team. Referral routes, roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and established.</p> <p>The Fostering Assessment Team Manager and the HOS for Regulated Services have reviewed Special Guardianship policy; this has been updated in February 2021 and the final version will be made available as part of Children's Service procedures manual. The policy review including all key parties, including the Learning Academy, both Fostering teams and legal. This policy will be reviewed at least every twelve months, or at any point of significant change in respect of policy, legislation or guidance. The Fostering Support Team Manager and the Service Manager for Regulated Services are in the process of creating a Special Guardianship Order tracker, to include all those children subject to the</p>
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	<p>Order, the status of the support being offered to them and the dates for review of the Special Guardianship Support plan.</p> <p>This will include trigger dates for the children at the age of fifteen years and six months, which will then prompt a letter explaining their rights to access from the Leaving Care team.</p> <p>The HOS for Regulated Service has created a flowchart outlining social work responsibility in respect of SGO support plans, how these are recorded and the recording of communication of this to applicants. This has been signed off by CLST and communicated to all teams across Children's Services.</p>
<p>Management should consider having a designated team of social workers who have responsibility for all SGOs, regardless of the situation. Should this not be possible, local practice guidance should clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of each team throughout the process.</p>	<p>Fully actioned. All SGO assessments are now progressed by social workers within the Fostering Assessment team; this includes quality assurance and oversight in the exceptional event of Independent Social Worker use.</p>
<p>Written information should be made available to all prospective SGs in relation to the support services that will be available to them, including financial support.</p>	<p>Information leaflets for assessment and support are now approved by CLST and are in use by both the Fostering Assessment and Support teams.</p> <p>Consultation was offered by legal services in the creation of these leaflets.</p>
<p>Management should ensure that Support Plans are signed by all relevant parties and that the latest information is taken into account in terms of support (particularly financial) that can be provided.</p> <p>In addition, where discussions have determined that no support is required by the SG, this should be identified within the Plan in case of future query.</p>	<p>SGO support plans are now signed off by the relevant Head of Service with overall case responsibility for the child.</p> <p>SGO assessment process and completion of SGO support plans forms part of the ASYE training programme.</p> <p>The Head of the Learning Academy is creating a schedule of training for all social workers across Children's Services in respect of assessment care planning; in-house training will be offered to social workers in respect of SGO support plans by a Practice Educator who is also Form F trained.</p> <p>A consistent SGO support plan proforma is now in place.</p>
<p>Where assessments are made in relation to periodic financial support, copies should be retained.</p>	<p>Held by Children's Finance.</p> <p>Copies are retained. The process for review of financial assessments is currently under review.</p>
<p>Management should ensure that clear timescales for the provision of support are</p>	<p>There is a specific section focused on timescales within the SGO process and this</p>

<p>identified within each Plan. Where support is ongoing, at the very least, the date of commencement should be shown.</p>	<p>is reviewed as part of the QA and HOS sign off process.</p> <p>The Fostering Support Team Manager and the HOS for Regulated Services are in the process of creating a Special Guardianship Order tracker, to include all those children subject to the Order, the status of the support being offered to them and the dates for review of the Special Guardianship Support plan. This will include trigger dates for the children at the age of fifteen years and six months, which will then prompt a letter explaining their rights to access from the Leaving Care team.</p>
<p>Management should ensure that procedures for review of support are clearly identified within each Plan. Consideration should be given to amending the Plan template to ensure that this aspect is separately shown, encouraging proper completion.</p>	<p>The SGO support plan proforma has been updated to include a specific section in terms of frequency of review and date for review. This proforma has been circulated to all staff.</p>
<p>Management should ensure that there are clear records in relation to communicating proposed Plans to the SG and any subsequent agreement (or otherwise).</p>	<p>The HOS for Regulated Service has created a flowchart outlining social work responsibility in respect of SGO support plans, how these are recorded and the recording of communication of this to applicants. This has been signed off by CLST and communicated to all teams across Children's Services.</p>
<p>Management should ensure that guidance is adhered to in terms of reviewing support services provided to SGs.</p>	<p>The Fostering Support Team Manager and the Service Manager for Regulated Services are in the process of creating a Special Guardianship Order tracker, to include all those children subject to the Order, the status of the support being offered to them and the dates for review of the Special Guardianship Support plan.</p> <p>This will include trigger dates for the children at the age of fifteen years and six months, which will then prompt a letter explaining their rights to access from the Leaving Care team.</p>
<p>Management should ensure that annual financial reviews are undertaken in line with the guidance, and appropriate action taken as a result.</p>	<p>Held by Children's Finance.</p> <p>The process for review of financial assessments is currently under review.</p>

Devon Audit Partnership undertook a review audit in June 2021. It noted many areas in which improvements had been made. As a result of this report, the following actions are being taken:

- In line with the review of the care planning pathways for cared for children, management will now include a care planning meeting whereby all and any issues pertaining to Special Guardianship and the Special Guardianship Support Plan will be overseen by the Fostering Assessment Team Manager; this will include the content of the Support Plan, communication with the prospective Special Guardians and their views, the signatures required for the Plan to be endorsed, the recording of communication and any other issue which may arise prior to the Support Plan being recorded as endorsed on the child's file. This will include an expectation of the endorsed Support Plan being sent by recorded delivery to the prospective Special Guardians. Each endorsed Support Plan will require Management Oversight from the HOS for Regulated on the child's file. This addition to the pathway will be fully implemented by the end of August 2021 and will be tracked through the updating of the SGO Tracker which has now been fully developed and created.
- The SGO Tracker has now been created and remains a live document which will now be reviewed in conjunction with the Court Manager and in line with the changes to the care planning pathway process as outlined above.
- Monthly meetings, in line with the month in which the Order was granted, are now in place to review each individual Support Plan on an annual basis. Management Oversight will be added to each child's file.
- At the point of a care planning endorsing a Support Plan, a review date will be scheduled at this point, to safeguard against the important step being overlooked.
- The Support Plan template will now be reviewed, to ensure that specific dates are prompted in relation to the starting point and projected end point for provisions. This will be achieved by the end of August 2021.
- Following the recommendations and outcomes of this audit, an exemplar Support Plan will be created and used as the foundation for whole service training in respect of Special Guardianship Support Plans. The exemplar will be created by 1st September 2021 and the training in place as part of the ongoing training schedule by October 2021.

In addition to this, and following a needs analysis in respect of some of the barrier to cared for children achieving legal permanence post final Order, a bespoke Former Foster Carer Special Guardianship Offer has now been approved in respect of nineteen children.

This feeds into a wider review of the Special Guardianship policy, which is currently underway pending a scope of the policy picture nationally.

Torbay have also now entered into an agreement with Family Action, on a subscription basis until June 2022 in respect of their additional Special Guardianship services. The new subscription would offer us:

*access for every Special Guardian to a dedicated SGO website

*crisis support out of hours, including evenings and Bank Holidays, for all Special Guardians

*online counselling service (50 min sessions, twice a week, up to 8 sessions

*online coaching service (30 mins sessions, twice a week, up to 20 sessions

*online befriending service (10 sessions of 60 mins)

Next steps:

As set out within this report, there are key areas related to fostering which must be a strategic focus as we move into the next year and beyond; this is reflected within the updated Sufficiency Policy, and in the updated Statement of Purpose which sets out a shared vision for the Fostering Service and its future.

Whilst the number of cared for children reduces, there remains a vital need for greater variety in respect of the nature of in-house placements on offer to our cared for children, particularly our older children, our sibling groups and our children who have additional or more complex needs. As such, recruitment must and does remain a key priority.

That said, it is also vitally important that we honor the expectations set out with the Torbay Fostering Family Charter, included within the Statement of Purpose, to ensure that we retain the highly skilled, committed and dedicated foster carers that we already support.

As such, the next steps include:

*Develop our use of social media as part of the Recruitment Strategy.

*Progress the actions as identified within the Fostering Recruitment Strategy.

*Create a resignation and exit interview Tracker, to identify themes relating to retention and support.

*Ongoing review and expansion of our Fostering Training Offer, in line with the participation work undertaken with fostering families in respect of quality, accessibility and sufficiency.

*Develop a wider range of support groups that fostering families can access, including Connected Carers, birth children and sole carers.

*Review the Special Guardianship policy pending the ongoing scope of the national picture in respect of Special Guardianship and financial support.

*Progress the Former Foster Carer Special Guardianship Offer in respect of the nineteen children identified.

*Progress and embed the care planning changes in respect of Special Guardianship as outlined above.

*Contribute to the quality assurance framework by undertaking dip sampling activity in respect of Special Guardianship breakdown, quality of placement planning, quality of foster carer supervision, quality of management oversight in fostering and feedback from Panel.

*Enhance the ways in which fostering families can feel part of the service, and feedback their experiences and their ideas, including regular survey activity as well as monthly participation meetings with senior management.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Signed:

Name: Becky Thompson, Head of Service (Regulated Services)

Date of review: 1st April 2022

Childcare Sufficiency Report

Report to Cabinet on 18 January 2022

Background

1. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 22 November 2022 to consider the Childcare Sufficiency Report for 2021 as outlined by Emma Kerridge, Senior Early Years Advisor, and Rachael Williams, Divisional Director for Education, Learning and Skills. The report provided an update in respect of early years need and provision over the past 12 months and the impact of Covid-19 on the sector, and officers responded to Members' questions in relation to the following:

- Were there any obvious reasons why some early years providers had higher occupancy than others.
- How were family members who provided childcare taken into account within the report.
- What 'developing a vital readiness' meant.
- How research was being used to improve good practice.
- How increase in birth rates would impact on need in future years.
- How could we encourage people to use childminders.
- How wrap around care was promoted.
- What was being done to encourage more providers to go into childcare and wrap around care.
- What effect Covid-19 had on demand and provision.
- The accuracy of the data used and how learning from other authorities was used.
- What action was being taken to help children with speech and language difficulties and those who required support to develop personal, social and emotional connections.
- How the impact of programmes such as the Chat, Play and Read Programme and Network were evaluated.
- If the figures on women smoking during pregnancy and the % of population who smoked included vaping and what the two different figures were for vaping and smoking.
- How we compared nationally for the number of people who smoked during pregnancy and other key statistics.
- The data demonstrated high numbers of people receiving Job Seekers' Allowance and Universal Credit and how this demonstrated lower incomes in Torbay.
- If comparison data for previous years could be provided with an explanation for some of the changes to help understand the changes.
- What options and support were available to non-registered childcare and early years providers and what was being done to encourage registration.

- Query in respect of the accuracy of some of the Ward data in respect of deprivation e.g. Collaton St Mary.
 - How was the information on cared for children taken into account within the report.
 - What action was being taken to ensure that children who don't have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) also receive the support they need.
2. The Board welcomed the comprehensive Childcare Sufficiency Report and thanked Emma and her Team. They particularly welcomed the Ward level data which helped to give a good picture of needs and demands within each Ward, particularly the more deprived Wards within Torbay.
 3. The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board recommends (unanimously) that:
 1. That the Cabinet be recommended to update the Childcare Sufficiency Report to include the following:
 - a. to include in next year's questionnaire how many people are supported by family members for childcare and early years support;
 - b. relevant comparisons with previous years data with reasons behind any changes e.g. number of childcare providers;
 - c. relevant comparisons to national data e.g. around smoking, breastfeeding etc.;
 - d. relevant statistics in relation to cared for children; and
 - e. to check the statistics around deprivation particularly Collaton St Mary to ensure that they are accurate.

Cabinet Response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Board – Childcare Sufficiency Report 2021

No.	Recommendation:	Cabinet Response:
1.	<p>That the Cabinet be recommended to update the Childcare Sufficiency Report to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. to include in next year’s questionnaire how many people are supported by family members for childcare and early years support; b. relevant comparisons with previous years data with reasons behind any changes e.g. number of childcare providers; c. relevant comparisons to national data e.g. around smoking, breastfeeding etc.; d. relevant statistics in relation to cared for children; and e. to check the statistics around deprivation particularly Collaton St Mary to ensure that they are accurate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. this will be actioned for next summer’s survey; b. this will be included in all future Childcare Sufficiency reports; c. this will be included in all future Childcare Sufficiency reports d. this will be included in all future sufficiency reports e. this has been checked and amended as follows: 57% of residents live in the top 30% most deprived in England. Out of 70 postcodes within Collaton St Mary, 40 are considered to be 20%-30% most deprived and the other 30 postcodes are in the 30% to 40% bracket. (the data that sits under this for further reference is the areas in and around Yalberton, South Devon College, White Rock are in the 20% to 30% bracket and the area headed towards Totnes and Blagdon are in the 30% to 40% bracket.)

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 18 January 2022

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Appointment of Member Champion – Queens Platinum Jubilee

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? as soon as possible

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Member champions are elected members who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Council's business. The main responsibility of each member champion is to encourage communication and positive action over the issue they represent.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Local Protocol on Member Champions, six Member Champions were appointed in 2019 to champion key aspects of the Council's work in respect of the following areas:
 - a) Armed Forces;
 - b) Foster Carers;
 - c) Climate Change;
 - d) Volunteering;
 - e) Domestic abuse and sexual violence; and
 - f) Mental health and wellbeing (the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health, plus one other member).
- 1.3 The Queens Platinum Jubilee is a historically important occasion with several community events programmed locally and nationally. The appointment of a Member Champion for the Queen Platinum Jubilee will enhance the work already being carried out by and recognises the importance of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to the Council.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

- 2.1 To enable Member input into the arrangements for events celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee in Torbay.
 - 2.2 There are no financial commitments in respect of the proposals contained in this report.
-

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That Councillor Amil be appointed Member Champion for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; assisting in the co-ordination of arrangements in Torbay to celebrate this great occasion.

Appendices

None

Background Documents

None